THE SERVERS' PART IN A CHORAL EUCHARIST.

1. GENERAL PREPARATIONS.

1. The Servers.

The Servers will be in the sacristy at least 15 minutes before the service begins. They will always wear cassocks when engaged in any duty connected with their work. Red cassocks should be worn when the liturgical color for the day is red or white. At all other times they will wear black cassocks.

Their attitude should be one of reverent attention, and their actions so timed as not to appear hurried, or to cause an awkward pause in the service.

Note. In order to facilitate the work of preparation, the First Server will attend to all the details of preparation in the sacristy; e.g. filling the wine and water cruets, getting ready the preper number of breads for the communion of the people, etc. The Second Server will perform all the duties connected with the sanctuary, such as the dressing of the altar and the credence, and the lighting of the lights.

2. The Altar.

The Second Server will remove the cover. He will find the places in the Missal, and place the book *closed* on the Epistle side, with the opening toward the cross. The lower end of the stand should be parallel with the front of the altar.

3. The Credence.

The cover should be removed. On the credence will be placed the ciboriu
containing the breads, the wine and the water cruets, the lavabo bowl with
the towel laid therein, the offertory plates, and the alms basin. Th
will be set on its rim against the back of the credence.

There should be also on the credence an extra chalice. A paten with a reserve supply of small breads should be placed on the re-table.

4. In the Sacristy.

As noted above, the First Server will assume charge of the preparations made in the sacristy, but only the Priest will prepare and vest the sacred vessels. While the Priest is vesting, the Servers will slip on their cottas.

5. The Lighting of the Altar Lights.

At least five minutes before the service, the Second Server will light the candles.

At an early Eucharist, only the two Eucharistic candles should be lighted, beginning with the Epistle side.

At a Choral Eucharist, the Second Server will light also the office lights, beginning with the candle nearest the cross on the Epistle side.

6. The Approach to the Altar.

Before leaving the sacristy, the Servers take a position on either side of the Celebrant for the preparatory prayers, the First Server to the right and the Second Server to the left.

In the procession to the altar, the Priest will be preceded by the Servers, the First Server preceding the Second Server. Where it is possible they will walk abreast moving slowly about three paces ahead of the Priest. Advancing to the foot of the altar steps, they separate far enough to permit the Priest to advance and stand between them. Then all reverence, and both Servers immediately kneel on the pavement.

11 THE PRIVATE PRAYERS AT THE FOOT OF THE ALTAR.

While the Priest is making his private preparation, the Servers shall say to themselves:-

A. Antiphon. I will go unto the altar of God: even unto the God of my joy and gladness.

B. Psalm 43.

Give sentence with me, O God, and defend my cause against the ungodly people: O deliver me from the deceitful and wicked man.

2. For thou art the God of my strength; why hast thou put me from thee: and why go I so heavily, while the enemy oppresseth me?

3. O send out thy light and thy truth, that they may lead me: and bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy dwelling.

4. And that I may go unto the altar of God, even unto the God of my joy and gladness: and upon the harp will I give thanks unto thee, O God, my God.

5. Why art thou so heavy, O my soul: and why art thou so disquieted within me?

6. O put thy trust in God: for I will yet give him thanks which is the help of my countenance, and my God.

C. Antiphon. I will go unto the altar of God: even unto the God of my joy and gladness.

D. Confiteor. I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heven, that I have sinned exceedingly in thought, word, and deed, by my fault, by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault. Wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy upon me.

E. Almighty God, have mercy upon me, forgive me my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

F. Each Server may then say some short prayer to direct the intention, viz.- the special object for which he may wish to pray.

111. FROM THE LORD'S PRAYER TO THE OFFERTORY.

1. The Lord's Prayer to the Collects (inclusive).

When the Priest ascends the altar steps and goes to the Epistle side, the Servers rise, reverence, and kneel in front of the altar on the lowest step, the First Server opposite the Epistle corner, and the Second Server opposite the Gospel corner. They will retain this position until the Epistle.

2..The Epistle.

At the conclusion of the Collect for the Day, or the Collects if more than one be used, the Servers rise, go to the midst, reverence, proceed to the sedilia and are seated during the reading of the Epistle.

3. The Gospel.

At the words,"Here endeth the Epistle",the Second Server will go directly to the Epistle side of the altar, get the Missal, and crossing on the step next below the foot-pace, place the book on the Gospel side of the altar. He will then resume his former position,viz.,on the Epistle side. The First Server in the meantime will have gone to the Gospel side of the altar. Both Servers stand facing the Priest as he reads the Gospel.

4. The Creed.

When the Priest goes to the midst for the Creed, the Servers face the the altar squarely. At the Name of Our Lord, and during the recitation of the words, "And was incarnate........ for us under Pontius Pilate",they bow together with the Priest. The reverence is made in humble acknowledgment of the condescension of the Son of God in taking upon Him our human nature in the Incarnation.

5.The Notices.

If the Celebrant gives out the notices from the foot-pace, the Servers will turn toward him as before.

6. The Sermon.

As the Priest descends the altar steps for the Sermon, the Servers meet him in the midst, reverence, and go to their places at the sedilia; they precede the Celebrant by about three paces. All remain standing until after the Invocation.

At the end of the Sermon, while the Ascription is being said, they proceed to the altar in the same manner as in the beginning of the service. There the Servers await the Priest and all reverence before the Celebrant ascends the altar steps.

IV. FROM THE OFFERTORY TO THE CANON.

1. The Offertory.

While the Offertory Sentences are being said, the Servers meet in the midst, reverence, and go to the credence, the First Server on the right hand of the Second Server; the Second Server stands there quietly while the First Server gets the plates, reverences, and gives them to the Crucifer whom he meets at the entrance to the sanctuary.

2. The Serving of the Elements.

The First Server rejoins the Second Server at the credence, takes the ciborium, and mounting to the step next below the foot-pace awaits the coming of the Priest at the Epistle end of the altar.

As soon as the Priest has received the breads for the communion of the people, the Second Server will advance to the step next below the foot-pace with the cruets; the lids of both cruets will be raised, and the handles turned toward the Priest. The wine cruet for convenience should be in the Server's right hand. While the Priest is pouring wine into the chalice, the water cruet should be transferred to the right hand, and the Server should be prepared to receive the wine cruet in his left hand.

Both Servers then return to the credence and remain standing with hands joined until the offerings of the people have been gathered.

3. The Presentation of the Alms.

The First Server will now take the alms basin, go to the midst, reverence, and await the coming of the Crucifer with the plates at the entrance to the sanctuary. He ascends to the first step below the foot-pace to a point a little to the right of the Priest, presents the alms to him, and returns to the credence.

4. The Lavabo.

Meanwhile the Second Server has made ready for the Lavabo. He takes the Lavabo bowl in his left hand, hangs the napkin over his left arm, takes the water cruet in his right hand and goes up to the step below the foot-pace when the Priest moves toward the Epistle corner. The Second Server pours a little water over the extremities of the Priest's thumbs and forefingers. After the Priest has dried his fingers, the Second Server will replace the cruet,bowl and napkin on the credence.

Both Servers then go to the midst, reverence, and stand before the lowest step, the First Server opposite the Epistle corner, the Second Server opposite the Gospel corner.

5. Until the Canon.

During the Prayer for Christ's Church Militant and the Exhortation which follows the Servers remain standing throughout. Immediately upon the conclusion of the Church Militant prayer, the First Server will quietly remove the alms from the altar to some convenient place and return to his post as before.

The Confession, Absolution, and the Comfortable Words will be said with the Servers kneeling.

For the Sursum Corda, Preface, and the Sanctus they rise and stand in their respective positions facing the altar. All bow reverently at the

"Holy, Holy, Holy," in adoration of the Blessed Trinity.

During the Prayer of Humble Access both Priest and Servers kneel.

V. FROM THE CONSECRATION TO THE BLESSING.

1. The Consecration.

During the Prayer of Consecration, the Servers remain kneeling at their places on the lowest step, bowing at the words, "For in the night in which He was betrayed....... Do this as oft as ye shall drink it in remembrance of Me."

2. Servers' Communion.

When the Priest has made his communion, the Servers rise, genuflect, and if they are to make their communion, kneel upon the foot-pace. Otherwise they kneel on the lowest step at either end, facing each other, while the people make their communion.

3. The Lord's Prayer to the Blessing.

After the people have made their communion, the Servers rise, genflect in the midst, kneel in their accustomed places, and remain thus until the Gloria in Excelsis. (Whenever the genuflection is made after the Prayer of Consecration it is an act of worship to Our Lord Jesus Christ, spiritually present in the Sacrament).

Both Servers rise for the Gloria in Excelsis or other Hymn, and stand facing the altar. At the conclusion of the Gloria, they kneel for the Post Communion Collect and the Blessing.

VI. FROM THE ABLUTIONS TO THE CONCLUSION OF THE SERVICE.

1. The Ablutions (First Server's Duty).

Both Servers remain kneeling until the Priest has consumed all of the Consecrated Elements. When he moves toward the Epistle corner, the First Server rises, and takes the cruets from the credence. With the winecruet in his right hand and the water cruet in his left, he advances to the step next below the foot-pace on the Epistle side of the altar. When the Priest extends the chalice the Server will pour into it a little wine, and when the Priest again extends the chalice, he will pour first a little wine, and then considerably more water over the Priest's fingers into the chalice. When the Priest extends the paten, a very small quantity of water will suffice. The Server will then turn to the credence, replace the cruets, and go to his accustomed place at the Epistle end of the altar, and stand looking toward the Priest as the latter reads the Last Gospel.

The Ablutions are made in conformity with the directions of the Rubric found on Page 240 of the Prayer Book that "if any of the Consecrated Bread and Wine remain after the Communion, it shall not be carried out of the Church".

2. The Last Gospel (Second Server's Duty).

When the Priest goes to the Epistle side of the altar for the Ablutions the Second Server goes up to the foot-pace, moves the altar book over to the Gospel corner, and finds the Gospel for Christmas Day. (On Christmas Day itself the Server will find the Gospel for The Epiphany). The Server then steps down to the step next below the foot-pace and stands facing the Priest in the Gospel corner of the altar.

When the Priest genuflects at the conclusion of the Gospel as an act of reverence to Our Blessed Lord in assuming our flesh, the Servers do likewise, and the Second Server moves the book to the Epistle corner of the altar, walking along the step next below the foot-pace, and reverencing in the midst.

The Second Server then returns to the pavement and meets the First Server in the midst; both await the coming of the Priest. All reverence and return to the sacristy, the First Server preceding, followed by the Second Server and the Priest.

3. The Concluding Prayer.

On reaching the sacristy, the Servers take their places on either side of the Priest for the closing prayer.

4. Altar Lights.

After the prayer, the altar lights are extinguished in the reverse order in which they were lighted. This is the customary method.

5. The Altar and Credence.

The Servers remove the vessels from the credence, and the missal and its stand from the altar. They will replace the covers on the credence and the altar. The missal stand should be placed on the credence.

6. The Sacristy.

With the exception of the sacred vessels and the purificator which only the Priest shall handle, the Servers will dispose of everything properly in the sacristy before leaving. All vestments should be hung up in their places, and the water used in rinsing the purificator should be poured into the font.